Aimee McConnell, Yr 5, 2016 4P

Magnificent Maasai Giraffe

Introduction

Giraffes are the tallest mammal on earth. But do you know about the Maasai Giraffe species? Maasai giraffes are the tallest giraffe species, their height ranging from twenty to thirty feet. Males can be from 2000 to 3000 pounds and females from 1300 to 2000 pounds. Their scientific name is giraffa camelopardalis tippelskirchi. They are found in Tanzania and Kenya.

Physical Appearance

Giraffes are spotted, tall mammals. Maasai species have the darkest spots. Their colour caries depending on what they eat, how old they are and if they have mated or not. The dominant males have the darkest spots. Maasai giraffes have skinny legs with knobbly knees. They have sharp hooves with one dimple which they use to defend themselves. They have a tail on their rear end and horns and ears on their head and they have a purple tongue so it does not get sun burnt.

Mating Season

Giraffes are like humans because they have no mating season although they do prefer to mate when it has just rained. Females mate when they are four years old and males mate when they are seven. Males are strong but not dominant. They only mate in their double digits. When food or water is low, giraffes tend not to mate. Some newborns will be left behind if they cannot run in twenty-four hours if there are predators nearby.

Endangerments

Maasai giraffes are the most endangered giraffe species. They are hunted for their skin, horns, hooves and head. They are like other African animals because their heads are positioned on shields and displayed as a prize. There is approximately 150 to 200 Maasai giraffes left. The exact number is unknown.

Other Interesting Facts

Baby giraffes fall two metres when they are born. Surprisingly, they can stand in half and hour and run alongside their family in ten hours. Most predators will not attack an adult giraffe because of their strong legs and sharp hooves. The hooves are sharp enough to kill a strong, fully grown lioness. Because of the shape of their ears, horns and the structure of their DNA, scientists have recently found that giraffes evolved from deer.

Conclusion

Maasai giraffes are the most endangered giraffe species in the world. They are found in Tanzania and Kenya. They are part of the deer family and are classified as an animal. They need to be protected from extinction.